United Nations A/54/6 (Sect. 21)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 April 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001*

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 21
Regular programme of technical cooperation

Contents

		Page
Overview		2
A.	Sectoral advisory services	4
B.	Regional and subregional advisory services	13

* The present document contains section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

99-10283 (E) 030599

Section 21
Regular programme of technical cooperation

Overview

21.1 Funding of the technical assistance activities under the regular budget began with General Assembly resolution 58 (I) of 14 December 1946, by which the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to include in the budget of the United Nations for the year 1947 the funds necessary for the accomplishment of such a programme in the field of social welfare. Over the years, the activities have been developed further in their sectoral and regional dimensions. The sectoral advisory services were established by the Assembly in its resolution 200 (III) of 4 December 1948 and the regional advisory services by the Assembly in its resolution 2803 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971.

21.2 The regular programme of technical cooperation complements technical assistance available to the developing countries from other sources of funds. In many countries, it continues to play an important role in several areas of operational activities such as technological development, social development, poverty alleviation and the improvement of human resources, infrastructure development, reinforcement of national capacities for research and development, environmental regeneration and sustainable development, capacity-building to increase competitiveness in the global economic environment, support in national reconstruction, the continuum of relief and development, public administration reform, disaster management, drug control, human rights and support for institutional reforms.

21.3 A significant portion of regular programme activities is oriented towards the needs of the least developed countries in accordance with the criteria established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the programme targets countries with economies in transition, where the key areas of support are technical cooperation and policy advice for systemic reforms, the promotion of economic and human development, the protection of the environment and growth of the energy sector.

21.4 Within the framework of existing guidelines, individual technical cooperation activities under the regular programme are determined by the nature of requests received from Governments, the recommendations of intergovernmental legislative and expert bodies and approved work programmes. In keeping with the guidelines, funding is directed towards activities with a demonstrated multiplier effect likely to have a significant impact on the development process that are in accord with development needs and priorities of individual countries and are consistent with global development policies enunciated by United Nations legislative bodies.

21.5 Because the scope and composition of the activities under the regular programme are based on the individual requests of Governments, the proposals at this stage indicate only major areas of activity and relevant secretariat units to be responsible for their implementation.

21.6 The programme, which comprises development projects in the fields of human rights, environment and social development management, human settlements, poverty alleviation, energy, economic development, international trade and development finance, population, public administration, finance and development, crime prevention and criminal justice, international drug control, statistics, transport and disaster mitigation and emergency humanitarian assistance, is divided into two components:

(a) Sectoral advisory services, executed, as appropriate, by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the secretariat of UNCTAD, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

(b) Regional and subregional advisory services executed by the secretariats of ECE, ECA, ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP.

21.7 There are three main types of technical cooperation activities proposed for financing under this section, namely, short-term advisory services, field projects and training.

Short-term advisory services

21.8 In response to ad hoc requests from Governments for assistance, technical cooperation, in the form of short-term advisory services, can be made available under the regular programme in cases when the specific problem can be dealt with on a short-term basis and does not fall within the scope of an already funded project. The main purpose of these services is to provide advice as a basis for immediate government action or, in the case of broader needs, to lay the groundwork for meeting them through the identification and formulation of projects for submission to potential financing sources.

Field projects

21.9 Provision of technical cooperation through field projects may originate in response either to specific government requests or to proposals formulated by the various offices concerned in the context of their approved substantive work programmes. Such projects will therefore be mainly interregional, designed to test and operationalize new approaches to development needs or to fill gaps where funds from other sources are insufficient to cover areas given high priority by legislative bodies. Different kinds of inputs will be combined in ways to best meet the particular needs involved and to maximize the multiplier function of the regular programme.

Training

21.10 Training activities are undertaken in recognition of the key role of human resources in the development process and the consequent need for adequately trained and qualified personnel at the national level. While training needs are often addressed through short-term advisory services and field projects, a portion of regular programme resources would be used for seminars and workshops in areas with a potential multiplier effect, organized for national staff with policy-making, planning and management responsibilities.

21.11 The procedures applicable to the regular programme were established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2514 (XXIV) of 21 November 1969, in which it endorsed the proposals contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1434 (XLVII). Under those procedures, annual reports on programme implementation are submitted, as appropriate, to the Executive Board of UNDP, while budget performance is reported to the General Assembly.

21.12 The resource requirements proposed under this section are summarized in table 21.1 below.

Table 21.1 Summary of requirements by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Component	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
A. Sectoral advisory services	15 855.7	18 643.3	–	–	18 643.3	784.7	19 428.0
B. Regional and subregional advisory services	21 082.5	24 011.9	–	–	24 011.9	1 699.0	25 710.9
Total	**36 938.2**	**42 655.2**	–	–	**42 655.2**	**2 483.7**	**45 138.9**

21.13 The resource requirements proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 are at the same level as have been approved for the biennium 1998–1999. The provision for regional and interregional advisory services at 2,184 work-months for 2000–2001 will be also held at the same level as was provided for the biennium 1998–1999.

A. Sectoral advisory services

Table 21.2 **Summary of requirements by programme**[a]

(Thousands of United States dollars)

			2000–2001 by implementing office							
	1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 appropriations	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	UNCTAD	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	Crime prevention	UNDCP	Human rights	Department of Humanitarian Affairs	2000–2001 estimates
Gender issues and advancement of women	–	303.0	543.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	543.6
Social policy and development	541.1	2 426.8	2 909.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 909.9
Sustainable development	5 120.1	2 595.7	2 807.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 807.8
Statistics	1 165.7	2 036.0	1 705.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 705.0
Population	174.3	386.1	511.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	511.6
Public economics and public administration	3 016.6	2 715.0	2 493.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 493.0
Globalization and development	–	–	–	341.7	–	–	–	–	–	341.7
Investment, enterprise, development and technology	–	–	–	341.7	–	–	–	–	–	341.7
International trade in goods and services and commodities	967.9	2 009.1	–	683.4	–	–	–	–	–	683.4
Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency	–	–	–	341.7	–	–	–	–	–	341.7
Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries	–	–	–	341.6	–	–	–	–	–	341.6
Adequate shelter for all	850.6	933.6	–	–	698.9	–	–	–	–	698.9
Sustainable urban development	–	–	–	–	317.0	–	–	–	–	317.0
Crime prevention and criminal justice	883.1	1 030.8	–	–	–	1 064.1	–	–	–	1 064.1
Supply reduction, elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking	–	405.9	–	–	–	–	419.0	–	–	419.0
Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities	2 218.3	2 939.8	–	–	–	–	–	3 009.7	–	3 009.7
Complex emergencies	595.1	598.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	627.1	627.1
Disaster relief	322.9	263.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	271.2	271.2
Total	**15 855.7**	**18 643.3**	**10 970.9**	**2 050.1**	**1 015.9**	**1 064.1**	**419.0**	**3 009.7**	**898.3**	**19 428.0**

[a] The breakdown is subject to change in response to assistance requests received and is shown for indicative purpose only

21.14 The sectoral advisory services cover programmes relating to human rights, environment and social development management, gender issues, human settlements, trade and development, population, public administration, finance and development, crime prevention and criminal justice, international drug control, statistics and emergency humanitarian assistance. The estimated requirements amount to $19,428,000, as shown in table 21.2, and comprise 43 per cent of the total resources under section 21.

21.15 It is anticipated that 744 work-months of interregional advisory services will be required during the biennium 2000–2001, representing no growth in comparison with the biennium 1998–1999.

1. Economic and social affairs: $10,970,900

21.16 The activities in this sector are implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in support of the objectives set out in programme 28 of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/53/6 (Prog.28)), in particular, subprogrammes 28.2, Gender issues and advancement of women; 28.3, Social policy and development; 28.4, Sustainable development; 28.5, Statistics; 28.6, Population; and 28.8, Public economics and public administration.

21.17 During the biennium 2000–2001, the focus will be on establishing and strengthening national capacities to promote gender mainstreaming, social development, including poverty alleviation, the enhancement of sustainable development and environmentally sound natural and energy resources management, statistical capabilities at the national level, the formulation and effective implementation of national population and related policies and the reform of public administration and the public sector.

21.18 It is also intended, during the biennium, to strengthen the capacity for networking and integrating advisory servicing facilities available in the United Nations economic and social entities represented on the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, in order to facilitate joint assessments of problems, the design of multidimensional proposals and training initiatives for strengthening of national capacities and in support of capacity-building and the sharing of best practices, particularly South-South experience.

Outputs

21.19 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Gender issues and advancement of women: $543,600*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to provide assistance to promote capacity-building for enhancing the participation of women in development and mainstreaming a gender perspective into national policies and programmes; to strengthen national capabilities for enhancing the understanding of women's rights and the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women process; and to strengthen national capacity in conceptualization, formulation and implementation of action-oriented national plan and programmes designed to implement the Beijing Platform for Action;

(ii) Group training. One subregional training workshop organized, at the request of Governments, for State parties to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women with respect to reporting obligations and one interregional seminar to follow up recommendations arising from the high-level review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Social policy and development: $2,909,900*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to assist in the establishment and strengthening of national capacities for implementation of the decisions and commitments made at the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development, in particular regarding social development, policy assessments, social impact, social integration and social expenditure and

poverty alleviation; and formulation and design of social development policies and strategies for incorporation into national plans and programmes;

(ii) Group training. Six interregional workshops/seminars on social integration and social development, delivery of social services and social impact assessment;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. Sustainable development: $2,807,800*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to provide support for strengthening national institutional capacities in the field of sustainable development, the elaboration and implementation of national sustainable development policies in national sectoral plans and strategies and the incorporation of sustainable development concerns into these plans and strategies, in particular in the fields of energy, fresh water management, infrastructure development and mineral resources;

(ii) Group training. Eleven workshops/seminars on the applications of remote servicing technology, the social impact of small mining industries, environmental and other regulatory framework for mineral development, coastal management and integrated water resources for small island developing States, energy problems of small island developing States, clean development mechanisms as a financing tool for energy projects, energy standards and labelling programmes and management programmes for electric utilities;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Statistics: $1,705,000*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to ensure the provision of expert assistance in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of capabilities related to decennial censuses and the System of National Accounts;

(ii) Group training. Twelve workshops/seminars aimed at capacity-building in the areas of environmental statistics and indicators; national accounts; population and housing censuses; disability statistics; and civil registration and vital statistics and international merchandise trade statistics;

(iii) Fellowships. Sixty fellowships to be provided to nationals from developing countries to upgrade their professional capabilities in the area of statistics and to encourage technical cooperation among developing countries;

(e) *Subprogramme 5. Population: $511,600*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to provide assistance to improve institutional capabilities for the compilation and analysis of national population data and for the formulation of national policies and programmes to improve national capacity to formulate policies for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The major focus will be given to the follow-up to the International Conference, including the strengthening and expansion of electronic population information to respond effectively to requests for information and to support coordination among the United Nations entities in the field of population;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops/seminars on population data analysis and research;

(f) *Subprogramme 6. Public economics and public administration: $2,493,000*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to provide support in the fields of governance and public administration policy development, administrative restructuring, civil service reform, governmental capacity for improved performance in the public sector and training in the field of public sector management reforms, governance and civic participation, and public administration and information; strengthening of public institutions and of governance systems, development of public services delivery systems, financial resources

mobilization, management and accountability and public/private partnership and regulatory framework;

(ii) Group training. Ten workshops on public sector management reforms, gender issues in civil service systems, governance and civic participation, public administration and information systems, government accounting and reporting, and promoting ethics in government and private sector development.

2. Trade and development: $2,050,100

21.20 The activities in this sector are implemented by UNCTAD and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 9.1 Globalization and development, 9.2 Investment, enterprise development and technology, 9.3 International trade in goods and services and commodities, 9.4 Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency and 9.5 Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, of programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

21.21 During the biennium 2000–2001, the UNCTAD regular programme on technical cooperation will focus on strengthening the capacities of developing countries and their groupings to foster the integration of their economies into the world economy. These activities will take into account the needs arising from developments in the international economy, including both the post-Uruguay Round context and the forthcoming series of multilateral negotiations on international trade and investment. They will also be fully responsive to the need to support the strengthening of economic cooperation groupings of developing countries. The UNCTAD regular programme of technical cooperation will be coordinated to ensure an appropriate balance among developing regions with priority assigned to the specific needs of the least developed countries and other countries with structurally weak and vulnerable economies.

Outputs

21.22 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Globalization and development: $341,700*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, on capacity-building and related policy advice with regard to financial issues, including the monitoring and surveillance of capital flows and debt, appropriate exchange rate and monetary policies and capital market development; on the timing and sequencing of policy reform to facilitate the process of integration in the international economy; on the implications of new financial mechanisms; on the design and implementation of development strategies in Africa, with special reference to poverty alleviation; on subregional economic cooperation and integration, including financial groupings of developing countries; and on training and human resource development in these areas;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops/seminars for senior officials on new financial mechanisms and risks and opportunities for developing countries;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Investment, enterprise development and technology: $341,700*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, on capacity-building and related policy advice to foster closer contacts and cooperation among enterprises; to promote investment; to facilitate partnership agreements; to foster the development of enterprises and entrepreneurship, including through the strengthening of associations of entrepreneurs in developing countries; to strengthen centres for technology innovation; to support bilateral and multilateral negotiations on investment; and to promote the development of human resources and local training capacities in these areas;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops/seminars for senior officials on bilateral and multilateral negotiations on investments and on strengthening centres for technological innovations;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. International trade in goods and services and commodities: $683,400*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, on capacity-building and related policy advice: to promote awareness of trade policy rules and reforms; to assist in the implementation of Uruguay Round results and to identify trading opportunities arising therefrom; to assist in the preparation for new multilateral trade negotiations; to promote complementarity between the environment, trade and development; to advise on the sustainable management of natural resources and to use modern instruments for commodity risk management; to promote competition policy; to advise on commodity diversification and processing; to disseminate trade data; to assist subregional groupings on emerging trading arrangements; and to promote the development of human resources in these areas, particularly through structured training programmes;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops/seminars for senior officials on new trading opportunities deriving from the implementation of Uruguay Round results and/or on trade and environment and sustainable management of natural resources;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency: $341,700*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, on capacity-building and related policy advice: to apply information technology to render the process of trading and transport more efficient; to promote the application of electronic commerce; to facilitate trade; to enhance the efficiency of the management of shipping and other multimodal transport operations; to promote opportunities for banking and insurance facilitation and new financial services; and to strengthen local training capacities in these and related areas, particularly through structured training programmes;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops/seminars for senior officials on the legal environment, commerce and micro-banking;

(e) *Subprogramme 5. Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries: $341,600*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, upon request, to advise least developed countries on the development of integrated country programmes for enhancing export supply capacities; on the implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Cooperation developed with the support of UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, IMF, the World Bank and WTO; on the preparation of the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries; on transit/transport problems affecting landlocked developing countries; on the particular economic problems of island developing countries; and on the development of human resources in these areas;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops/seminars for senior officials on transit/transport issues and on the evaluation of country programmes.

3. Human settlements: $1,015,900

21.23 The activities in this sector are implemented by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 11.1, Adequate shelter for all, and 11.2, Sustainable urban development, of programme 11, Human settlements, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

Outputs

21.24 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Adequate shelter for all: $698,900*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, on housing finance and delivery, land management and security of tenure and infrastructure management;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops on housing finance and delivery;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Sustainable urban development: $317,000*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, on urban finance, urban poverty reduction and the improvement of urban governance; and on management and exchange of expertise, experience, know-how and technology;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops on urban development and socio-economic integration in urban areas.

4. Crime prevention and criminal justice: $1,064,100

21.25 The activities in this sector are implemented by the Centre for International Crime Prevention and are in support of the objectives of programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

21.26 The programme of technical cooperation aims at reinforcing the criminal justice system of Member States. Compared with the biennium 1998–1999, the programme of technical cooperation will increasingly focus on the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption. Provision of technical assistance at national, subregional and regional levels will constitute a key element of the overall strategy of the Centre for International Crime Prevention. These actions will be implemented in accordance with the mandates given to the Centre by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to Member States to take effective measures at the national level in line with the convention against transnational organized crime expected to be adopted by the Millennium Assembly of the General Assembly in 2000.

Outputs

21.27 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

Subprogramme 1. Crime prevention and criminal justice: $1,064,100

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to assess existing national measures against corruption and organized crime, particularly by strengthening criminal justice systems, to draft or revise relevant national legislation and establish or support national strategies against corruption and organized crime; and to introduce or transfer new techniques of computer technology and create/evaluate electronic databases for the administration of criminal justice;

(ii) Group training. Five workshops relating to the international convention against transnational organized crime expected to be adopted in 2000. The workshops will be designed to enhance expertise to cope with national, subregional and regional requirements, such as the strengthening of legal mutual assistance and extradition procedures, exchange of information among national law enforcement agencies, judges and prosecutors; four study tours for senior government officials from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend high-level training courses on specific techniques and strategies against organized crime and corruption;

(iii) Fellowships. Nine fellowships for participants from developed countries and countries with economies in transition;

(iv) Field projects. Two projects on measures against organized crime and corruption.

5. International drug control: $419,000

21.28 The activities in this sector are implemented by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and are in support of the objectives of subprogramme 13.4, Supply reduction: elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking, of programme 13, International drug control, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1). The assistance provided under this programme complements assistance available to developing countries from the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

21.29 During the biennium 2000–2001, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme will continue to place emphasis on the provision of support to Member States to secure accession to the international drug control conventions and to adopt legislation and infrastructure. For this purpose, technical assistance will be provided to Member States in strengthening their capacity to improve their legislation and criminal justice systems and in establishing or strengthening their institutions, infrastructures, practices and procedures for the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of various types of drug-related crimes. Further, the Programme will also provide technical assistance to Member States for developing long-term programmes for the training of personnel responsible for applying the new laws, in line with international instruments and recommendations to upgrade their technical understanding and know-how. Special attention will be given to the legal infrastructure elements of the mandates resulting from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in the areas of demand reduction, amphetamine-type stimulants, precursors, judicial cooperation, money-laundering and alternative development.

Outputs

21.30 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

Subprogramme 1. Supply reduction: elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking: $419,000

Advisory services. Missions, at the request of Governments, to provide advice on the nature and extent of obligations under the international drug control conventions and on implementation measures adopted by other countries with similar legal systems and concepts; to assess needs and develop project proposals; to conduct comprehensive reviews, evaluations and report on existing drug-related laws, arrangements and implementation procedures and infrastructure of the country or subregion concerned; to provide advice on legislative and administrative options to give correct and adequate effect to all the conventions, including appropriate mechanisms to help ensure effective international cooperation under the conventions; to formulate policies in line with the conventions, as well as for coordinating operational drug control activities; to provide expertise to help prepare drafting instructions or the legislation itself and to model implementing legislation and expert advice on its adjustment to suit local requirements; to improve professionalism of judges and prosecutors in applying drug-related laws and giving and receiving international and judicial cooperation in extradition, legal assistance, and related matters.

6. Human rights: $3,009,700

21.31 The activities in this sector are implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and are in support of the objectives of subprogramme 19.3, Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities, of programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

21.32 The objectives are to assist countries, at their request, in developing comprehensive national plans of action to promote and protect human rights and to provide advice and to support specific projects to promote the incorporation of international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices; to develop a comprehensive and coordinated United Nations programme to help States in building and strengthening national structures for human rights promotion and protection; and to raise awareness and promote specialized knowledge about human rights through the organization of training courses, seminars and workshops and the production of a wide range of educational, training and information material.

Outputs

21.33 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

Subprogramme 1. Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities: $3,009,700

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to provide assistance in building and strengthening national structures for human rights promotion and protection and to assess needs and provide advice as a basis for immediate government action;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops on regional arrangements for the protection of human rights in the Asia and the Pacific region; eight regional training courses on specific thematic issues: economic and cultural rights; women rights/trafficking of women; children's rights/juvenile justice; administration of justice; national human rights institutions; human rights education; national plans of actions; and human rights monitoring;

(iii) Fellowships. Sixty fellowships to be awarded to candidates from five regions who need to study and train in specific areas of human rights, with emphasis on training in the preparation of reports to the United Nations human rights monitoring bodies.

7. Humanitarian assistance: $898,300

21.34 The activities in this sector are implemented by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, specifically by the Emergency Liaison Branch in New York and the Disaster Response Branch in Geneva, and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 20.2. Complex emergencies, and 20.4 Disaster relief, of programme 20, Humanitarian assistance, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

21.35 During the biennium 2000–2001, the Emergency Relief Coordinator will further strengthen and develop the capacity of his office to respond to natural and man-made emergencies, working closely with Governments of disaster-prone and emergency-affected countries to ensure the effective delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance, including support in the continuum from relief to development. To that end, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will emphasize the need for contingency planning; test the validity of those plans in post-disaster/emergency situations; and provide expert advice on the application, at the regional and country levels, of knowledge acquired through theoretical and practical experience.

Outputs

21.36 The categories of outputs foreseen to be delivered are as follows:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Complex emergencies: $627,100*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to coordinate the design, improvement and development of plans at agency levels, working closely with affected Governments, in order to strengthen the collective response capacity of the United Nations system; to support governmental efforts by promoting the concept of contingency planning, following the assessment of the impact of disasters/emergencies and the evaluation of its effectiveness;

(ii) Group training. Three regional training courses on harmonization of disaster/emergency assessment and coordination approaches as well as established standards and recognized procedures, one in Africa and two in Asia, with the participation of government representatives and United Nations agencies;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Disaster relief: $271,200*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to facilitate the identification of measures to be taken during the transitional phase from relief to development; to assess the existing contingency plans at regional and country levels; to help identify measures aimed at strengthening the capacity to better respond in future emergency situations;

(ii) Group training. One seminar to allow North/South and South/South exchanges to take place as a forum for exchange of experience and lessons learned.

B. Regional and subregional advisory services

Table 21.3 Summary of requirements by programme[a]

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1996-1997 expenditure	1998-1999 estimates	2000-2001 by implementing office					2000-2001 estimates
			ECA	ESCAP	ECE	ECLAC	ESCWA	
Facilitating economic and policy analysis	3 499.1	3 498.0	2 486.1	–	–	–	–	2 486.1
Enhancing food security and sustainable development	940.4	1 256.9	1 410.2	–	–	–	–	1 410.2
Strengthening development management	1 040.9	1 264.0	1 018.2	–	–	–	–	1 018.2
Harnessing information for development	603.6	1 508.5	1 347.1	–	–	–	–	1 347.1
Promoting regional cooperation and integration	1 299.7	431.9	978.5	–	–	–	–	978.5
Promoting the advancement of women	–	–	1 057.9	–	–	–	–	1 057.9
Regional economic cooperation	1 094.3	1 293.6	–	1 307.7	–	–	–	1 307.7
Development research and policy analysis	1 091.0	1 350.1	–	1 356.5	–	–	–	1 356.5
Social development	490.3	433.7	–	663.7	–	–	–	663.7
Environment and natural resources development	1 326.4	861.4	–	840.0	–	–	–	840.0
Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	366.9	431.5	–	663.5	–	–	–	663.5
Environment	323.0	372.6	–	–	382.0	–	–	382.0
Transport	508.2	732.1	–	–	750.6	–	–	750.6
Statistics in Europe	167.1	366.2	–	–	375.4	–	–	375.4
Sustainable energy	321.8	373.5	–	–	382.8	–	–	382.8
Trade, industry and enterprise development	1 254.4	1 085.8	–	–	1 113.6	–	–	1 113.6
Linkages with the global economy, competitiveness and production specialization	393.2	383.9	–	–	–	450.9	–	450.9
Productive, technological and entrepreneurial development	272.7	262.5	–	–	–	367.4	–	367.4
Macroeconomic equilibra, investment and financing	3 118.0	4 086.3	–	–	–	3 989.6	–	3 989.6
Environmental and land resource sustainability	317.5	268.9	–	–	–	656.5	–	656.5
Management of natural resources and environment	961.2	1 314.5	–	–	–	–	1 107.9	1 107.9
Improvement of the quality of life	274.3	330.2	–	–	–	–	539.2	539.2
Economic development and global changes	462.6	315.0	–	–	–	–	880.3	880.3
Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development	297.3	1 066.2	–	–	–	–	874.3	874.3
Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information	658.6	724.6	–	–	–	–	711.0	711.0
Total	**21 082.5**	**24 011.9**	**8 298.0**	**4 831.4**	**3 004.4**	**5 464.4**	**4 112.7**	**25 710.9**

[a] The breakdown is subject to change in response to assistance requests received and is shown for indicative purpose only.

21.37 The estimates for this component ($25,710,900) comprise 57 per cent of the total resources proposed under this section. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2803 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, provision is made for a system of regional and subregional advisory services for the purpose of assisting developing countries that are members of the regional commissions in solving problems that they may encounter in their national development efforts. The advisory services are made available in response to requests from Governments and involve advisory missions on an individual or joint multidisciplinary basis. The resources for regional and subregional advisory services are provided in the form of work-months estimated to meet the requirements in particular fields during the biennium. The regional advisers are engaged on a temporary basis and receive support from substantive divisions and administrative services of the regional commissions.

21.38 It is anticipated that 1,440 work-months of regional advisory services will be required in the biennium 2000–2001, the same level as required during the biennium 1998–1999.

21.39 Regional commissions carry out important information-gathering and socio-economic analysis functions in their respective regions. They have been playing a major role in developing policy on economic integration and in clarifying economic, social, political and environmental issues relating to sustainable development. They provide a forum and a network for cooperation among their member States and between them and other States at the technical level. In addition, they are increasingly becoming providers of technical cooperation activities, especially in intersectoral areas and in areas where no other United Nations entity has a comparative advantage.

1. Economic and social development in Africa: $8,298,000

21.40 The activities in this region are implemented by ECA and are in support of the objectives set out in subprogrammes 14.1, Facilitating economic and social policy analysis, 14.2, Enhancing food security and sustainable development, 14.3, Strengthening development management, 14.4, Harnessing information for development, 14.5, Promoting regional cooperation and integration, and 14.6, Promoting the advancement of women, of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1).

21.41 During the biennium 2000–2001, the programme will focus on the provision of advisory services and group training by both regional advisers and short-term experts for the purpose of assisting member States in solving problems that they may encounter in their national development efforts. The main purpose of these services is to provide advice as a basis for immediate government action or, in the case of broader needs, to lay the ground work for meeting them through the identification and formulation of projects for submission to potential financing sources. The training activities (seminars, workshops and symposia), which form an important aspect of the functions performed by the regional advisers, will be undertaken in areas with a potential multiplier effect, organized for officials of member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations with policy-making, planning and management responsibilities.

Outputs

21.42 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Facilitating economic and policy analysis: $2,486,100*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on formulation of national and subregional large-scale and sectoral policies and strategies and the preparation, implementation and monitoring of programmes for adjustment and stabilization, including implementation of policies, measures and incentives for enhancing trade expansion and strengthening export capacity; poverty assessment, analysis and monitoring; debt management; and on post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(ii) Group training. Two high-level seminars on policies and instruments for macroeconomic management; two policy seminars on debt management; two workshops on the development of guidelines and methodologies for use by member States to improve poverty assessment, analysis and monitoring; two subregional seminars on post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Enhancing food security and sustainable development: $1,410,200*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on formulation of policies and design strategies and programmes related to the nexus issues (population, environment and agriculture interactions); the design, implementation and evaluation of food security policies and programmes; implementation of the population, environment and development agriculture interactions (PEDA) model; national policies and environment-related legislation and laws; modalities for integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making; environmental protection and urban development; support to sustainable agricultural production and environmental rehabilitation programmes;

(ii) Group training. Two high-level regional seminars on the implementation of the PEDA model; two seminars on the monitoring of the series of globally agreed upon programmes and conventions that flow from the New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s; two workshops on developing methodologies and guidelines on sustainable agricultural production systems and environmental rehabilitation programmes in Africa; two seminars on topical issues on food security and sustainable development;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. Strengthening development management: $1,018,200*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on enhancing effectiveness and efficiency and policy analysis capacity in African public services; enhancing accountability in the public sector; decentralization and local governance; developing and strengthening legal and regulatory framework essential to private sector operations; the design of policies and measures for promoting dialogue and partnerships between the private and public sectors; strengthening networking arrangements among national, subregional and regional private sector organizations and associations; and the formulation of policies and design of programmes/projects to promote enterprise competitiveness and entrepreneurship development;

(ii) Group training. One regional seminar on the development of codes and indicators to monitor administrative governance; two workshops on ethics and accountability for improved efficiency and performance in the public sector; two seminars on strengthening the leadership and the managerial and technical capacities of local government; two high-level seminars on formulation of policies and measures to promote private sector competitiveness and entrepreneurship development; and a symposium on strategies and technical assistance programmes to strengthen South-South cooperation for promoting strategic joint ventures and partnerships between enterprises;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Harnessing information for development: $1,347,100*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on developing national policies and plans for adopting development information technologies; developing master plans for building national information and communication infrastructures; developing guidelines and standards on policies and strategies to increase access to information and communication facilities; monitoring the implementation of the African Information Society Initiative; strategies for building appropriate computer and electronic networking infrastructures for developing connectivity and assisting in the creation of national and regional network information centres, Internet Society chapters and community connectivity centres; organization and management of statistical systems and household surveys; and implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts;

(ii) Group training. Two seminars on design of development information systems and on information economy; two workshops on organization and management of statistical systems; two workshops on capacity-building training programmes related to information and communication technology; two workshops on building appropriate computer networking infrastructure and implementing connectivity projects and national information infrastructure development initiatives;

(e) *Subprogramme 5. Promoting regional cooperation and integration: $978,500*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on regional transport linkages and facilitation; monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations Transport and Communication Decade in Africa programme; problems related to water resources development and management, including cooperative arrangements on transboundary river/lake basins; partnership arrangements and cooperation between enterprises and development organizations at subregional and regional levels in the fields of transport and communications; and strategies and measures for the development of both surface and groundwater;

(ii) Group training. Two seminars on topical issues on water resources development and management; one regional workshop on the implementation of the African Road Safety initiative; one symposium on commercialization and private sector participation in transport and communications; one seminar on multimodal transport, freight forwarding and logistics; and one workshop on development of rural transport infrastructure;

(f) *Subprogramme 6. Promoting the advancement of women: $1,057,900*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on strategies for legal reform and formulation of new legislation with a view to attaining a gender responsive legal system consistent with the current international framework for human and legal rights; technical support to Governments, non-governmental organizations and the establishment of legal, paralegal and mobile legal services in the rural communities; strategies to promote legal literacy among women and men at all levels and to introduce legal education in the school system; building and strengthening the capacity of women entrepreneurs networks/associations; mainstreaming of a gender perspective into national and sectoral development plans and strategies as well as the programmes of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including into national accounts and budgetary processes;

(ii) Group training. Two workshops on developing or strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks to foster women's access to land; one high-level seminar on the harmonization of customs and modern law with regard to women's legal rights; one workshop for developing strategies to promote networks and partnerships for legal literacy among women and men in rural communities; two workshops on the development and application of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the sixth African Regional Conference on Women; one workshop for improving non-governmental management and networking capabilities; three training courses for building national capacity in gender analysis and formulation of gender policies and training of trainers for entrepreneurship development.

2. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific: $4,831,400

21.43 The activities in this region are implemented by ESCAP and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 15.1, Regional economic cooperation, 15.2, Development research and policy analysis, 15.3, Social development, 15.5, Environment and natural resources development, and 15.7, Statistics, of programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1).

21.44 During the biennium 2000–2001, technical cooperation activities will focus on strengthening the technical, managerial and organizational capacities of developing member and associate member States at all levels in their national efforts to solve their economic, social and technological programmes. Formulation of the regional advisory and training programme for 2000–2001 is based on the requests by the member States, the needs and priorities of the recipient countries as reflected in the deliberations of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and on the emerging needs/changing conditions in those countries of the ESCAP region requesting advisory services.

Outputs

21.45 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation: $1,307,700*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on trade policy and trade promotion; more effective participation in WTO negotiations in articulating their concerns and advocating their interests; enhancement of regional cooperation to promote trade efficiency and electronic commerce; facilitating access to information technology; assisting countries to enhance their national capacities to introduce micro-level efficiencies thereby facilitating response to the challenges and opportunities emerging from globalization and the liberalization of international trade;

(ii) Group training. Eight workshops on strengthening of national capabilities in technology transfer and investment promotion; increasing possibilities of expansion and diversification of trade between and among subregions; and strengthening of national capabilities in relation to small- and medium-scale industries;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Development research and policy analysis: $1,356,500*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to requests from Governments, in particular of the Pacific island developing countries, on economic development and planning, especially such as strategic development planning; adjustment and reform programmes, sustainable development policies and practices, monetary, fiscal and income policies, public sector financial management, capital markets development, informal and semi-formal financial systems, governance, corporate plans at ministry, departmental and local government levels, small business development and public sector investment programmes;

(ii) Group training. Four workshops on various aspects of macroeconomic planning and management, financial management and public administration; particularly for countries with economies in transition;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. Social development: $663,700*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to assist in formulating appropriate policies, plans and programmes on poverty alleviation and social integration within the context of national, subregional and regional development goals; monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of national social and economic development policies, plans and programmes for poverty alleviation and social integration; improving the targeting of specific disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups to be accorded priority attention in policies, plans and programmes for poverty alleviation and social integration; accelerating the implementation of national action to achieve the goals and targets in the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development and the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 1997–2006; rural development, social development and planning, youth in development, social security systems, women in development, policies and programmes for the disabled and mainstreaming all

categories of social development issues in the decision-making and planning machinery of Governments;

(ii) Group training. Eight workshops on social aspects of structural adjustment and economic reform and development issues related to poverty alleviation and economic development programmes; integration of women into all aspects of development planning;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Environment and natural resources development: $840,000*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to assist countries in formulating plans for the priority sectors identified, as well as areas related to environmental protection, including assistance in institutional and policy development and environmental impact assessment;

(ii) Group training. Four workshops on capacity-building for development of national plans and programmes for environmentally sound and sustainable development;

(e) *Subprogramme 5. Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: $663,500*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, for assistance in the field of national accounts; and in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts;

(ii) Group training. Three workshops on the new system of national accounts; and social statistics, gender statistics and related socio-economic indicators.

3. Economic development in Europe: $3,004,400

21.46 The activities in this region are implemented by ECE and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 16.1, Environment, 16.2, Transport, 16.3, Statistics, 16.5, Sustainable energy, and 16.6, Trade, industry and enterprise development, of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1).

21.47 During the biennium 2000–2001, the principal function of the ECE advisory services will be to continue to promote the capacity of countries undergoing transition processes to integrate with the European and global economy. The advisory services have reinforced the ECE orientation regarding those issues of particular relevance to countries with economies in transition and newly independent States. Requests for ECE advisory assistance from its member States, which show an ever-growing trend, cover a broad range of activities in areas of strategic policy formulation such as market economy institution-building, trade promotion, industry and enterprise development, privatization and foreign direct investment, statistics, transport, environment and energy. Advisory assistance also includes the implementation of conventions, norms and standards negotiated within ECE, programme formulation, financial engineering, training of policy makers, as well as institutional networking at national and subregional levels.

Outputs

21.48 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Environment: $382,000*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, in particular of the countries with economies in transition to a market economy in the ECE region, to assist them in enhancing capacity- and institution-building to comply with the regional environmental conventions in a transboundary context in the areas of water management, environmental impact assessment and industrial accidents, to promote their implementation and compliance monitoring, to speed up their

respective ratification/accession processes and to promote integration of countries in transition into a pan-European legal and economic space;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Transport: $750,600*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, for assistance to participate in and benefit from ECE region-wide efforts to achieve an integrated European transport system; in bringing national transport systems and infrastructures in line with recommendations, resolutions and international agreements and conventions elaborated within the framework of the ECE Inland Transport Committee. In the process, particular attention will be given to assisting member States in transition to develop transport systems and infrastructures that are compatible with those of neighbouring parts of the ECE region;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. Statistics in Europe: $375,400*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to focus mainly on the area of social and demographic statistics aiming to help develop statistical capacity within countries with economies in transition in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States; to provide assistance to countries with economies in transition with the 2000 round of population censuses; to assist countries with economies in transition in building a capacity for human development and social trends reporting;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Sustainable energy: $382,800*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to ensure that the countries with economies in transition receive advisory assistance to reduce the energy outputs of their national economies, which is closely linked to environmental problems, and in the selection of energy efficiency demonstration zone sites on the basis of technical and economic appraisal, to be carried out by technical visits to all sites. Technical advice will also be given to enable these countries to formulate their national energy policies with the aim of reducing their dependence on energy imports, to assist in a formulation of legislation in the energy field and to promote the development of the privatization process in the energy sector;

(e) *Subprogramme 5. Trade, industry and enterprise development: $1,113,600*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to provide assistance to the countries with economies in transition in the implementation of legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks established for the promotion of trade and foreign direct investment; to support government agencies concerned with border-crossing operations in countries with economies in transition, and to promote public sector cooperation with professional associations to simplify trade procedures and reduce non-tariff barriers to trade; and to support creation of an enabling environment for the development of small and medium size enterprises in countries with economies in transition.

4. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: $5,464,400

21.49 The activities in this region are implemented by ECLAC and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 17.1, Linkages with the global economy, competitiveness and production specialization, 17.3, Productive, technological and entrepreneurial development, 17.4, Macroeconomic equilibria, investment and financing, and 17.7, Environmental and land resource sustainability, of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1).

21.50 For the sustainable economic development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is a need for these countries to improve their linkages with the global economy (their quantitative and qualitative shares in trade, foreign direct investment and technology flows) and also to increase their capacity

both to take advantage of growth cycles in international trade and to withstand adverse phases through diversification of products and markets, a search for investments and alliances abroad and better linkages between exports and the other production activities; to identify the most suitable best practices and technologies available internationally, adapting them to local conditions; to carry out important reforms and implement macroeconomic and institutional policies to introduce new ways of operating; and to introduce environmental concerns into natural resources development.

Outputs

21.51 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs are to be delivered:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Linkages with the global economy, competitiveness and production specialization: $450,900*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to the countries in the region to assist in the improvement of their negotiating capacity in the field of international trade and to enhance their capacity to attract external financial resources for investment; to advise on reform of trade policies to improve the linkages with the global economy and on the improvement of their regulatory framework governing international trade; on reforms of trade policies in light of the challenges and opportunities of the current trends of the world economy; on the strengthening of the negotiating capacity of the Governments in the region to fully benefit from the opportunities of recent international trade agreements and on the improvement of their capacity to generate financial resources for investment in productive and service enterprises; and on policies to increase internal and external financial resources for investment, on instruments for channelling such resources into productive capital accumulation and on strengthening the negotiating capacity of Governments in the region in the field of international trade in goods and services;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Productive, technological and entrepreneurial development: $367,400*

Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to countries of the region to assist in the design of policies to promote economic growth, based on the utilization and local adaptation of the best internationally available practices and technologies, fostering their ability to compete internationally and support their modernization processes; to increase the pool of knowledge on linkages and production chains being developed in the region and to identify the policies best suited to support this process within the framework of an optimum exploitation of natural resources with minimum negative impact on the environment; and on related policy reforms within the subregional and hemispheric integration process;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. Macroeconomic equilibria, investment and financing: $3,989,600*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to countries of the region to assist in improving policy decisions adopted by Governments and the private sector in national economies by undertaking a systematic assessment of the application of economic policies and reforms and the international and regional context in which they operate; on subregional and hemispheric integration; and to provide technical assistance on the application of new information and communication technologies management in organizations and the effects on the regional development process;

(ii) Group training. Five seminars on fiscal policy reforms; economic and social integration; hemispheric integration; information management; and sectorial policies, productivity and competitiveness; four study tours on exchange of experience in fiscal policy; economic integration; municipal administration; and information management;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Environmental and land resource sustainability: $656,500*

Advisory service. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, to countries of the region to assist in the formulation of policies which promote environmentally sustainable development

and the use of natural resources and to advise the countries on the implementation of Agenda 21 and other multilateral environmental agreements; on reforms of policies and the implementation of measures related to the environmentally sustainable use of natural resources and on the development of regulatory instruments for recently privatized water and sanitation entities; on the tourism industry; on the strengthening of the existing institutional mechanisms to protect the environment; and on the use of energy and mining resources.

5. Economic and social development in Western Asia: $4,112,700

21.52 The activities in this region are implemented by ESCWA and are in support of the objectives of subprogrammes 18.1, Management of natural resources and environment, 18.2, Improvement of the quality of life, 18.3, Economic development and global changes, 18.4, Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development, and 18.5, Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information, of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1).

21.53 The purpose of this programme is to assist member States in their national efforts to overcome the various obstacles to economic and social development. During the biennium 2000–2001, ESCWA will continue to enhance regional cooperation and policy coordination and increase awareness of the economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental dimensions of development, promoting the development of technical assistance activities and projects commensurate with the needs and priorities of ESCWA member States. Support will be provided to member States in the preparation and implementation of national policies, plans and programmes and in the identification and formulation of projects.

Outputs

21.54 The categories of outputs foreseen to be delivered are as follows:

(a) *Subprogramme 1. Management of natural resources and environment: $1,107,900*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on strengthening the capacity to improve energy policies; new and renewable energy technologies; development of the electric power sector; cooperation in development and management of shared water resources; evaluating environmental impact assessment for sustainable development and its harmonization in the region; and promoting environmental management;

(ii) Field projects. Two projects on management of shared water resources and efficiency in the use of energy;

(b) *Subprogramme 2. Improvement of the quality of life: $539,200*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on the development of human resources, upgrading vocational skills and drawing social and community development policies; on formulating legislation and action-oriented policies highlighting the actual needs of the family; and participation of women in economic activities and the process of development;

(ii) Field projects. Two projects on governance and civil society;

(c) *Subprogramme 3. Economic development and global changes: $880,300*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on improving economic reform policies, financial management, privatization and deregulation measures; and issues relating to WTO/GATT and the European Mediterranean Partnership; on the policies relating to macroeconomic reforms;

(ii) Field projects. Two projects on economic reform policies;

(d) *Subprogramme 4. Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development: $874,300*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on the measures and mechanisms for strengthening technological capabilities and technological assessments; to advise on policies and plans for the development of communication and information systems, including high-speed networking options, network infrastructure, the Internet and intranets and the harmonization of standards at the regional level; and on strategies and programmes for agricultural development, food industries and rural institutions;

(ii) Field projects. Two projects on harmonization of agricultural policies, regulations and norms;

(e) *Subprogramme 5. Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information: $711,000*

(i) Advisory services. Missions, in response to ad hoc requests from Governments, on electronic data processing and development; updating of main economic and social databases; designing and conducting integrated household surveys; and improving the existing systems of national accounts, related systems and classification requirements;

(ii) Group training. One workshop on data collection, classification, standardization, analysis and dissemination of statistical information, particularly in new and emerging social areas;

(iii) Field projects. Two projects on the development of communications and information systems.